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hap so than to these as it dyd on their predecessours." ¹⁶ That is to say, it was the fate of earlier expeditions which disturbed, at this particular juncture of affairs, the minds of those who were interested in *this* expedition, and an allusion to being "take in Fryse," which might have been made at any time during the previous decade or so, would undoubtedly have peculiar pertinence at just this time.

But it would *not* have had the same pertinence, if indeed it would have had any, after the expedition itself. For by William of Hainault's campaign the old order was decidedly reversed. Even the Frieslanders themselves had understood the situation better. Juye Jouer, their leader, called by some "the great Fresone" from his enormous height, began his address to his men as follows: "O, ye noble and free Fresons, knowe for trouthe there is no chaunce but may tourne. Though by your valyantesse ye have or this tyme disconfyted the Henowayes, the Hallanders, and the Zelanders, knowe for trouthe, that suche as come nowe upon you, are people more experte in the warre thanne they were before, and beleve verily, they shall do otherwise than their predecessours dyde; they wyll not gyve it up, they wyll menteyne their dedes." ¹⁷ And his forebodings were justified by the event. It was precisely William of Hainault's expedition which went far to lay the fear of being "take in Fryse" which had haunted during the previous decades the minds of all who had to do with Friesland. And Chaucer's line, pertinent at any time during these previous decades, but peculiarly relevant during the year preceding August, 1396, would have had little or no point at any time *after* the expedition.

Finally, the one *certainty* in the case is the fact that the *Envoy* followed the *Wife of Bath's Prologue*. ¹⁸ If the *Wife of Bath's Prologue* was written during 1393 or early in 1394, as I have recently shown reason to believe, ¹⁹ then the

Envoy must be dated after the middle or end of 1393. If further the Robert Bukton whose wife is mentioned in a grant of March 14, 1397 ²⁰ is the Bukton of the *Envoy*, then the *Envoy* belongs somewhere between the middle of 1393 and the beginning of 1397. If the facts which I have just pointed out have any weight, the line about the danger of being "take in Fryse" might have been written at any time within these limits. It is quite possible, I should say even probable, that it was the expedition of August and September, 1396, which suggested the allusion. But in that case it was the state of mind which accompanied the *preparations* for the expedition, rather than the outcome of the campaign itself, which gave the allusion point. Even on the orthodox assumption, then, the poem should be placed *before* rather than *after* August, 1396.

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THE USE OF THE FRENCH PAST DEFINITE IN *SI*-CLAUSES

The use of the French past definite in *si*-clauses seems scarcely touched upon in treatises on French Grammar. In looking through more than forty such works in English, French and German, including Brunot, Darmesteter, Meyer-Lübke, Tobler and many others, I have found only four references to the subject. E. Etienne, in his *Essai de grammaire de l'ancien français*, p. 298, among a list of conditions in which "la chose est considérée comme non douteuse," gives one example of the p. def. Professor E. C. Armstrong, *Syntax of the French Verb*, under the heading: "Si clauses equivalent to declarative statements," says: "In them, the verb may be in the past definite, the future, the conditional, or their compounds." ¹ None of them can be

¹⁶ Chap. cexi.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ The Wyf of Bathe I pray you that ye rede

Of this matere that we have on honde (ll. 29-30).

¹⁹ *Modern Philology*, viii, 327 ff.

²⁰ See Tatlock, 211, n. Professor Tatlock's identification, however, does not seem to me to be convincing.

¹ I have not noted any instances of the past anterior.

used in other *si* clauses." Mätzner, in his *Frz. Gram.*, p. 343, ed. of 1885, says: "Im Bedingungssatz steht das Perfektum definitum, wenn ohne Entscheidung ein Faktum gesetzt wird. . . . Dabei kann sich die Voraussetzung der Wahrheit der Tatsache stattfinden." Professor J. A. Harrison, in his *French Syntax*, based on Mätzner, has the same statement, p. 146. This statement is the only one that I have found that recognizes that the p. def. is used in conditional clauses in cases of both fact and doubt. (It is never used in contrary-to-fact clauses, so far as I have noticed.) In view of the scarcity of the material available on this subject and of the few examples given, it may be worth while to cite other examples and to attempt to draw some deductions from them.

I have made no search in Old French, but the construction existed. Etienne gives one example, and H. Johanssen, *Der Ausdruck des Concessivverhältnisses im Altfrz.*, p. 54, gives 8. In all of these, the verb of the *si*-clause states a concessive fact. In modern French, if we leave out of consideration the still fairly common expression *S'il en fut (jamais)*, the first and most obvious point in regard to this construction is that it is rare. In several years' reading, of tolerably various character, I have noted only 68 instances, gathered, among other authors, from Rabelais, Monluc, Corneille, Racine, Molière, Pascal, Bossuet, Montesquieu, Voltaire, Rousseau, Töpffer, Hugo, Sainte-Beuve, France and Rostand. To these should be added 1 from Mätzner, and 5 kindly furnished me by Professor E. C. Armstrong. Of this total of 74 cases, 4 are from the 16th century, 20 from the 17th, 11 from the 18th, 29 from the 19th, and 10 from the 20th; of the last 39, 24 are before 1860 and 15 after 1860.

So far as an inference is justifiable from this limited number of cases, it would appear that, in modern French, the construction is relatively commonest in the seventeenth century, and that it has become much more rare in the nineteenth and twentieth.² This last conclusion is strengthened by the negative evi-

dence that one may read many thousands of pages of contemporary French without meeting a single instance. In conditional clauses, as in other uses, the p. def. has been largely supplanted by the past indefinite and the imperfect,—generally in cases of fact, almost always in cases of doubt.

The use of the p. def. in the latter case seems always to have been rare, which doubtless accounts for the fact that this use has been almost uniformly ignored by grammars. I have found altogether only ten cases, less than one-seventh of the total number, which are given here:

"Sa [Julie's] faute, si c'en fut une, n'a servi qu'à déployer sa force et son courage." Rousseau, *Nouvelle Héloïse*, 5^e Partie, Lettre 2 (1761).—"Si jamais la vanité fit quelque heureux sur la terre, à coup sûr cet heureux-là n'était qu'un sot." *Ib.*, 5^e Partie, Lettre 3, note q.—"Mais si aux glaces de l'âge vous avez laissé s'unir l'égoïsme . . . ; si de tout temps vous sûtes calculer le présent pour l'avenir; . . . alors vous blâmerez celui qui renonce à un héritage." Töpffer, *L'Héritage*, iv (1839).—"Si cet acte fut commis pour éviter l'effusion du sang, . . . il faut le plaindre. S'il fut toléré par ambition personnelle, il faut le flétrir." Lamartine (Mätzner).—"Si l'on eut cette idée, les royalistes avaient intérêt à la prévenir." Michelet, *Histoire de la Révolution française*, p. 107 of Wright's *Extraits* (1847-1853).—"Ce qui est certain, c'est que s'il le put, il y assista." Sainte-Beuve, *Port-Royal*, i, p. 506 (1840).—"M. de Pontchâteau . . . se sera exagéré le tort (si même il en eut) du bon Fontaine." *Ib.*, ii, 244, note 2.—"Puissances de l'ombre . . . si, vous attardant chez moi après le chant du coq, vous me vîtes alors glisser sur la pointe des pieds dans la cité des livres, vous ne vous écriâtes certainement pas" etc. France, *Sylvestre Bonnard*, p. 234, Holt ed. (1881).—"Il ne me paraît pas possible qu'on puisse avoir l'esprit tout à fait commun, si l'on fut élevé sur les quais de Paris." France, *le Livre de mon ami*, p. 79, Holt ed. (1885).—"S'il y eut réellement une loi, elle fut donc portée, ou tout au moins renouvelée, par la démocratie." Croiset, *Hist. de la littérature grecque*, T. III, p. 393 (1899).

It will be noted that the earliest of these cases is of 1761, and that only three of them are of the last sixty years.

In two instances the condition has mixed tenses, once the p. def. and the past indefinite

² The 19th century cases quoted represent much more reading than those of the preceding three centuries combined. 15 of the 29 cases are from two authors.

(quoted above), once the p. def. and the imperfect: "S'il [Mithridates] avait l'art de solliciter les peuples . . . il éprouvait à son tour des perfidies de la part de ses capitaines . . . ; enfin s'il eut affaire à des généraux romains malhabiles, on envoya contre lui, en divers temps, Sylla, Lucullus et Pompée." Montesquieu, *Grandeur et décadence des Romains*, ch. vii. (1734).—In fourteen instances the verb of the *si*-clause is modified by *jamais*, in ten by other temporal adverbs.—The conclusions show much variety as to tense, mood and construction; they are more often in the p. def. (more than one-third of all cases) than in any other tense.³

While wider reading would doubtless modify the above deductions in some particulars, two conclusions seem reasonably safe; that the construction is rare and increasingly so; and that the cases of fact are much more numerous than the cases of doubt.

Appended are some additional examples:

"Si je fis ice, si est felunie es meies mains." *Psaut. d'Ox.*, 7, 3 (12th cent., quoted in Etienne, *loc. cit.*).—"Et sē ele fu en paine de l'entrer, encor fu ele en forceur de l'isgir." *Aucassin et Nicolette*, xvi, 22 (12th cent.).—"Se li rois en fu lies, puis en ot marrement." Renard de Montauban, 45, 24.—"Je jure devant toy, [Dieu]—ainsi me soys tu favorable, si jamais à luy [Picrochole] desplaisir, ne à ses gens dommaige, ne en ses terres je feis pillerie; mais, bien au contraire, je l'ay secouru de gens, d'argent," etc. Rabelais, Livre 1, *Gargantua*, ch. 28 (1535).—Luy sans parole dire Entr'ouvrit doucement un delicat sourire, . . . et promptement je meure, Si ce ris delicat ne m'attendrit le coeur, Me faisant oublier la colere et la peur. R. Belleau, *Premiere journee de la Bergerie* (1565).—Par ces vers j'en prens acte affin que l'avenir De moy, par ta [Rapin's] vertu, se puisse souvenir; Et que ceste memoire à jamais s'entretienne, Que ma Muse imparfaite eut en honneur la tienne; Et que si j'eus l'esprit d'ignorance abatu, Je l'euz au moins si bon, que j'aimay ta vertu. Régnier, *Satire ix* (1608).—Alcippe: "Continue, et fais bien l'ignorante." Clarice: "Si je le vis jamais, et si je le connoi!" Corneille, *le Menteur*, 498-499 (1643-1644).—

Mais si elle eut de la joie de régner sur une grande nation, c'est parce qu'elle pouvait contenter le désir immense, qui sans cesse la sollicitait à faire du bien. Bossuet, *Oraison funèbre de Henriette-Marie de France*, 4 pp. from beginning (1669).—Vénus: "Mon fils, si j'eus jamais sur toi quelque crédit, Et si jamais je te fus chère, . . . Emploie, emploie ici l'effort de ta puissance." Molière, *Psyché*, Prologue (1671).—Mais tous ils confessaient que si jamais les Dieux Ne mirent sur le trône un roi plus glorieux, Également comblé de leurs faveurs secrètes, Jamais père ne fut plus heureux que vous l'êtes. Racine, *Iphigénie*, 355-358, (1674).—S'il eut beaucoup de bonne volonté, j'eus aussi pour lui une très forte attache. Boileau, *le Lutrin*, Avis au lecteur (1683 and 1701).—Angélique (disguised as man): "Si jamais je vous fus cher, Madame, il est temps de vous déclarer." Dancourt, *la Folle Enchère*, sc. xxii (1690).—Car s'il n'y eut jamais amour tel que le vôtre, il est impossible aussi d'être aimé plus tendrement que vous l'êtes. Prévost, *Manon Lescaut*, T. ii, p. 123, ed. of 1745 (1731).—Si jamais il y eut quelqu'un d'étonné, ce furent les gens qui entendirent ces mots. Voltaire, *Zadig*, ch. vi (1747).—Tout ce qui dépend de ma volonté fut pour mon devoir. Si le coeur, qui n'en dépend pas, fut pour vous, ce fut mon tourment et non pas mon crime. Rousseau, *la Nouvelle Héloïse*, Livre vi, 12 (1761).—Si, vainqueurs de Toulon, vous présageâtes l'immortelle campagne de 93, vos victoires actuelles en présagent une plus belle encore. Bonaparte, *Proclamation à l'armée d'Italie* (1796).—Dieu lui-même, en douant ce regard de candeur, S'il y mit plus de flamme, y mit plus de pudeur. Hugo, *Marion de Lorme*, A. v, sc. iii (1829).—A Marathon, . . . les Athéniens . . . s'ils arrêterent l'armée barbare, ne purent l'empêcher de s'embarquer. France, *Mannequin d'osier* (1897, p. 63 of Dike's *Monsieur Bergeret*).—Cyrano: "Si quelquefois je fus éloquent . . ." Roxanne: "Vous le fûtes!" Rostand, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, A. iii, sc. vi (1897).—Même si elle ne fut pas ce qu'elle aurait dû être, vous devriez la bénir et la remercier, cette jeunesse. Lavedan, *Le bon temps*, p. 355 (1906).—Si'ils n'en obtinrent pas la suppression, ils le réduisirent à l'effacement. Lavis, *Histoire de France*, ix, i, p. 18 (1910).⁴

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³ Since the above was written I have noted the following Old French example:

Desor le pont en a .j. encontre,
Tel li dona qu'il l'abat el fossé;
Se il ot soif, boire pot a plenté.

(*Ayméri de Narbonne*, 925-927.)

⁴ I owe to one of my graduate students, Mr. Edward Cullom, several of the 17th century quotations in this article and to Professor Armstrong several instances of the p. def. construction later than any I had noted.